

Texts of Gorbachev's Statements to Lithuanians

Following are the texts of statements made yesterday by President Mikhail S. Gorbachev to the Lithuanian people and to the Lithuanian Parliament. The statements, as distributed in translation by Tass, the official Soviet press agency, were read by announcers on Radio Moscow and on the Soviet television.

TO LITHUANIAN PEOPLE

Dear citizens of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic,

I am addressing you at a difficult time for our country. The March 11 decisions of the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet have brought us to a critical point.

The attempts being taken by the incumbent Lithuanian leadership to break the republic's ties with the Soviet Union and its tactics of unilateral and ultimative actions endanger the normal life and security of all people in the Republic, Lithuanians and non-Lithuanians, and are a cause of grave concern in the country.

Is it normal when amendments to the Constitution, resolving the destiny of the republic and its people and concerning the interests of the entire country, are adopted in haste, without consultations and discussions, actually within one night?

The Third Congress of U.S.S.R. People's Deputies urged the Supreme Soviet of the Republic to renounce political recklessness. The Lithuanian leadership responded to this appeal for common sense with the escalation of irresponsible and illegitimate decisions.

This counterposes Lithuania to other constituent republics and the whole of the Soviet Union and undermines the historically established ties and cooperation between our peoples.

The actions being taken in Lithuania have no logical foundation. They are being taken at a time when we have begun to resolve vital issues of the Soviet federation on a really democratic basis.

What is our position? It is the sincere adherence to the ideas of the free and original development of all peoples of our country, and respect for their legitimate rights to self-determination and sovereignty. This fully refers to the Lithuanian people, too.

Now attempts are being made to convince you

that genuine sovereignty within the Soviet Union, without breaking away from it, is impossible. Simultaneously, old grudges are being purposefully kindled and the dark sides of joint life are being emphasized.

Indeed, our past includes many things that we are mutually rejecting. And this refers not only to the Lithuanian people. But no one can say that in the years of perestroika any people in our country has been deliberately elevated or purposefully humiliated.

We have for years lived in one home. Does the past time deserve only bad words? Have the Lithuanian literature and poetry, theater and cinema, music and architecture, education and sports faded and got lost in the multicolored Soviet culture?

Was it not in the mutual work and with the fraternal aid from other republics that your industry and agriculture have been developing? Did Lithuania itself not extend a helping hand to other peoples in times of trouble?

Did the Lithuanian citizens not support the U.S.S.R. Constitution, by which Lithuania abided for years honestly and strictly as a fully-fledged Republic?

The incumbent Lithuanian leaders are trying to convince you that their separatist actions will not affect the economic, scientific, technical and other ties with the other republics of the U.S.S.R.

But this is not so, because all these ties can develop normally and yield fruits only in a favorable atmosphere of confidence and mutual assistance and not in the situation of confrontation, ultimatums, disrespect for one another and ethnic strife.

The pointed disrespect for the U.S.S.R. Constitution, the challenge to Soviet laws and the nonimplementation of union obligations give rise to just indignation all over the country.

The President of the U.S.S.R., the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet and the U.S.S.R. Government are receiving numerous letters and telegrams expressing utter concern and perplexity in connection with the developments in Lithuania.

People demand that the U.S.S.R. Constitution be defended and that the union be protected from the harm caused by the actions of separatists. They

propose taking effective economic, political and administrative measures.

People in Byelorussia and Kaliningrad region are raising the issue of returning territories transferred to Lithuania after it joined the U.S.S.R.

In general, the situation in the Republic and around it has become dramatic. If the voice of reason is not heeded now, developments can have grave consequences for all of us. We must be united in striving to prevent this.

I have appealed to the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet, proposing that it immediately annul the illegal acts it has adopted. This will open a possibility for discussing the entire range of problems on the solely acceptable basis — within the framework of the U.S.S.R. Constitution.

I am expressing hope that my appeal will be supported by the citizens of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic.

TO LITHUANIAN PARLIAMENT

The incumbent Lithuanian leadership does not heed the voice of reason. It continues to ignore the decision of the third, extraordinary Congress of U.S.S.R. People's Deputies and is taking unilateral steps that run counter to the U.S.S.R. Constitution and that are openly challenging and insulting to the entire union.

I want to declare yet again that this road is ruinous and will only lead to a dead end.

I urge the deputies of the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet to understand this truth and their historical responsibility for the interests of the people of Lithuania — Lithuanians and non-Lithuanians, for their security and well-being, for the destiny of democracy in the whole of our country and of stability in the world.

I propose that the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet immediately annul the illegal acts it has adopted. Such a step will open a possibility for discussing the entire range of problems on the solely acceptable basis — within the framework of the U.S.S.R. constitution.